

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-13. (cancelled).

14. (currently amended) A recording medium storing a program of instructions executable by a computer to control the computer to function as an electronic editor for a calculation formula for calculating the price of a service, the electronic editor creating by defining said calculation formula in a format directly readable by an electronic costing system, the electronic costing system establishing, with the aid of said calculation formula, the price of a service using information on the service consumed contained in consumption variables, ~~said editor comprising~~ said computer being controlled to function as the electronic editor by performing the steps of:

- ~~—an electronic calculator~~
- via an interface of the computer, a user selecting nodes from a node library of pre-stored nodes stored in the computer, each node being associated with a calculating operation executable by the electronic costing system to establish the price of the service;

- via the interface of the computer, the user connecting the selected nodes to one another by arcs, the arcs defining, by an ordered relationship, an order in which said calculating operations are carried out by the electronic costing system, the nodes connected to each other by the arcs creating a tree structure defining said formula, said tree structure being formed by i) nodes including a root node, father nodes, and child nodes and ii) endings, each ending extending from a respective one of the child nodes;

~~defining the calculation formula and storing the defined calculation formula in a first information storing means, ————— wherein the calculator comprises: —~~

~~— an acquisition module that acquires said calculation formula, said calculation formula being in the form of a tree structure from nodes, the nodes connected to one another by arcs, each node being associated with a pricing calculating operation executed by the costing system to establish the price of the service, the arcs defining, by an ordered relationship, an order in which said pricing calculating operations are carried out by the electronic costing system,~~

~~and — a module~~

the computer automatically converting the acquired created tree structure into a format directly readable ~~format~~ by the electronic costing system; and

the computer storing the converted tree structure in
~~the first~~ an information storing means,

wherein the information storing means and the computer
are each hardware devices.

15. (currently amended) A recording medium according to claim 14, wherein said program of instructions controls the computer to further function as the electronic editor by performing the further step of displaying the tree structure, via the interface, during said step of creating the tree structure ~~the calculator further comprises a module that displays the tree structure during tree structure acquisition or when the tree structure is acquired.~~

16. (currently amended) A recording medium according to claim 14, wherein said program of instructions controls the computer to further function as the electronic editor by performing the further steps of: ~~the acquisition module creates,~~

- via the interface of the computer, the user selecting, from the node library of pre-stored nodes, ~~under the control of the user,~~ a first-level node ~~in said tree structure~~ solely associated with an operation for activating child nodes of said first-level node in response to receiving a new value for one of the consumption variables processed by a calculation operation associated with one of the child nodes, and

- via the interface of the computer, the user connecting the selected first-level node to the child nodes of said first-level node by arcs defining, by an ordered relationship, an order in which said calculating operations are carried out by the electronic costing system.

17. (currently amended) A recording medium according to claim 14, wherein said program of instructions controls the computer to further function as the electronic editor by performing the further steps of:~~the acquisition module creates,~~

- via the interface of the computer, the user selecting, from the node library of pre-stored nodes, ~~under the control of the user,~~a first-level node in said tree structure, ~~solely associated with the~~an operation for activating child nodes of the first-level node ~~nodes~~ and the calculation operation associated therewith, at predetermined time intervals, and

- via the interface of the computer, the user connecting the selected first-level node to the child nodes of said first-level node by arcs defining, by an ordered relationship, an order in which said calculating operations are carried out by the electronic costing system.

18. (currently amended) A recording medium according to claim 14, wherein said program of instructions controls the

computer to further function as the electronic editor by performing the further steps of:~~the acquisition module creates,~~

- via the interface of the computer, the user selecting, from the node library of pre-stored nodes,~~under the control of the user,~~ a processing node ~~in said tree structure,~~ solely associated with an calculating operation for calculating a new value from the values of the consumption variables and pre-existing calculated variables and for allocating the calculated new value to one of i) a consumption variable, ii) a pre-existing variable, and a new calculated variable, and

- via the interface of the computer, the user connecting the selected processing node to at least one node of said tree structure by arcs defining, by an ordered relationship, an order in which said calculating operation is carried out by the electronic costing system.

19. (currently amended) A recording medium according to claim 14, wherein said program of instructions controls the computer to further function as the electronic editor by performing the further steps of:~~the acquisition module creates,~~

- via the interface of the computer, the user selecting, from the node library of pre-stored nodes,~~under the control of the user,~~ a decision node solely associated with a conditional activation operation of all of corresponding child

nodes and the calculating operation associated therewith, using the value of a consumption variable or a calculated variable, and
- via the interface of the computer, the user
connecting the selected decision node to the child nodes of said
decision node by arcs defining, by an ordered relationship, an
order in which said calculating operations are carried out by the
electronic costing system.

20. (currently amended) A recording medium according to claim 14, wherein said program of instructions controls the
computer to further function as the electronic editor by
performing the further steps of:~~the acquisition module creates,~~

- via the interface of the computer, the user
selecting, from the node library of pre-stored nodes,~~under the~~
~~control of a user,~~ a split node solely associated with an operation for extracting from the value of a consumption variable or a calculated variable, a range of values either between a lower limit and an upper limit, or outside the lower and upper limits, the child nodes processing the range of values extracted, and

- via the interface of the computer, the user
connecting the selected split node to the child nodes of said
split node by arcs defining, by an ordered relationship, an order
in which said calculating operations are carried out by the
electronic costing system.

21. (currently amended) A recording medium according to claim 14, wherein said program of instructions controls the computer to further function as the electronic editor by performing the further steps of:~~the acquisition module creates,~~

- via the interface of the computer, the user selecting, from the node library of pre-stored nodes,~~under the control of a user,~~ a node ~~in the tree structure,~~ solely associated with an calculating operation for unit conversion of a calculated value, and

- via the interface of the computer, the user connecting the selected node to a node of the tree structure by an arc defining, by an ordered relationship, an order in which said calculating operation is carried out by the electronic costing system.

22. (currently amended) A recording medium according to claim 14, wherein said program of instructions controls the computer to further function as the electronic editor by performing the further steps of:~~the acquisition module creates,~~

- via the interface of the computer, the user selecting, from the node library of pre-stored nodes,~~under the control of a user,~~ an ending ~~in the tree structure,~~ solely associated with a calculation ~~[[an]]~~ operation for calculating a

price and with an operation for stopping the costing system from passing through the tree structure, and

- via the interface of the computer, the user connecting the selected ending to a node of the tree structure by an arc defining, by an ordered relationship, an order in which said calculating operation is carried out by the electronic costing system.

23. (currently amended) A recording medium according to claim 14, wherein said program of instructions controls the computer to further function as the electronic editor by performing the further steps of:

- via the interface of the computer, the user selecting, from the node library of pre-stored nodes, a node
~~the editor further comprises second information storing means containing a library of pre-stored nodes associated respectively with a~~
pre-defined parameterisable calculating operation operations,

~~and wherein the acquisition module comprises a sub-module for selecting nodes contained in the library, a sub module for~~
- via the interface of the computer, the user connecting the selected nodes selected with the aid of the selection sub-module to a father node by an arc defining, by an ordered relationship, an order in which said calculating operation is carried out by the electronic costing system,

- via the interface of the computer, the user ~~and a sub-module for~~ parametering the parameterisable operations associated with the selected node ~~nodes of the library.~~

24. (currently amended) ~~Electronic~~ An electronic costing system for ~~costing~~ automatically establishing the price of a service using a calculation formula, comprising:

a receiver storing consumption variables containing information on consumption of the service;

a storage element containing a tree structure defining a calculation formula for automatically establishing the price of the service, the calculation formula for calculating the price of the service using the information on consumption of the service stored by the receiver, ~~+~~

~~an electronic editor comprising — i) an acquisition module acquiring said calculation formula, the formula being in the form of a~~

said tree structure being formed from by i) nodes including a root node, father nodes, and child nodes and ii) endings, each ending extending from a respective one of the child nodes, the nodes connected to one another by arcs, each node being associated with a pricing calculating operation ~~executed~~ executable by the electronic costing system to establish the price of the service, the arcs defining, by an ordered relationship, an order in which said operations are carried out

by the electronic costing system, ~~and ii) a module automatically converting the acquired tree structure into a directly readable format by the electronic costing system and storing the converted tree structure in the storage element,~~

~~the storage element storing information containing the calculation formula defined by an electronic editor, the formula for calculating the price of the service using the information on consumption of the services stored in the receiver; and~~

an electronic calculating unit configured for i) receiving information of the consumption variables from the receiver and receiving the tree structure from the storage unit, and ii) executing operations associated with the nodes and the endings of the calculation formula tree structure, in response to the consumption variables information received [[by]] from the receiver, so as to pass through the tree structure of the calculation formula from the root node to at least one of the endings by successively executing ~~successively~~ the conditional activation ~~operation~~ operations of the father nodes, then, solely ~~the~~ conditional activation operations associated with ~~the~~ activated child nodes until at least one ending associated with [[an]] a price-calculating operation to calculate a price has been activated, and to execute the at least one ending to automatically establish ~~automatically~~ the price of the service,

wherein the receiver, the storage element and the electronic calculating unit are each hardware devices.

25. (currently amended) A method ~~defining of creating~~ a formula for calculating, on a computer, the price of a service in a directly readable format by an electronic costing system, the electronic costing system, with the aid of said formula, establishing the price of a service from information on consumption of the service, said information contained in consumption variables, said method comprising of steps of:

[[~~-~~]] via an interface with an electronic calculator,
~~acquiring a user selecting nodes from a node library of pre-~~
~~stored nodes stored in a storing means connected to the~~
~~electronic calculator, each node being associated with a~~
~~calculating operation executable by the electronic costing system~~
~~to establish the price of the service~~ said formula, said formula
~~being in the form of a tree structure formed from nodes;~~ [[~~,~~]]

via the interface with the electronic calculator, the
user connecting the selected nodes ~~connected~~ to one another by
arcs, ~~each node being associated with a pricing calculating~~
~~operation executable executed by the electronic costing system to~~
~~establish the price of the service,~~ the arcs defining, by an
ordered relationship, an order in which said ~~pricing~~ calculating
operations are carried out by the electronic costing system, the
nodes connected to each other by the arcs creating a tree
structure defining said formula; and

[[-]] the electronic calculator converting said ~~acquired~~ created tree structure into a format directly readable by the electronic costing system and storing the converted tree structure,

wherein the electronic calculator and the storing means are each hardware devices.

26. (currently amended) Method according to claim 25, wherein, ~~the acquisition step comprises:~~

~~— a sub step of selecting a node in a library of pre-stored nodes, the~~ at least one pre-stored parameterisable nodes ~~being is~~ associated ~~respectively~~ with a pre-defined parameterisable calculating operations,

[[-]] the selection of nodes includes a sub-step of the user ~~connecting~~ selecting, from the node library of pre-stored nodes, the at least one parameterisable node associated with a pre-defined parameterisable calculating operation,

the connecting of nodes includes a sub-step of the user connecting the selected parameterisable node ~~during the selection sub step~~ to a father node of the tree structure, and

[[-]] ~~a sub step of~~ via the interface with the electronic calculator, the user parametering the parameterisable calculating operation of the ~~node connected to the father~~ selected parameterisable node ~~during the connection sub step.~~

27. (previously presented) A recording medium according to claim 14, wherein the formulae for calculating the price includes conditional calculating rules having a form of:

if Condition 1 exists, then Action 1 takes place, where i) Condition 1 is a logical function of which the result is True or False, and ii) Action 1 is a mathematical function of the calculation of the price.